

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONTEV 00763 082008Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W  
-----020977 090757Z /14  
R 081859Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5991

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0763

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, UY  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: PRESS REACTION TO LATEST GOLDMAN ATTACK

REFS: (A) MONTEVIDEO 553 (B) GENEVA 2730

1. PRO-GOVERNMENT "LA MANANA" AND "EL PAIS" OF MARCH 7 BOTH CARRY STORIES, NEARLY IDENTICAL AND PROMINENTLY PLACED, TO EFFECT THAT URUGUAYAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE MARCH 6 TO REFUTE PUBLIC CRITICISM OF GOU HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY ROBERT GOLDMAN. BOTH STORIES ARE GENERALLY LACKING IN DETAILS AND MAKE NO MENTION OF SPECIFIC CRITICISM BY GOLDMAN. REGARDING LATTER, WE PRESUME PRESENT OUTBURST IS A REACTION TO GOLDMAN'S RECENT WASHINGTON STATEMENT REPEATING CHARGES AIRED LAST MONTH IN GENEVA (REFTELS). ON THAT OCCASION HE DENOUNCED ADMISSIONS OF OFFICIAL TORTURE AND ANTI-SEMITIC REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO PRESIDENT OF SUPREME MILITARY TRIBUNAL SILZA LEDESMA AND ALLEGEDLY MADE IN COURSE OF INTERVIEW WITH GOLDMAN AND TWO FOLLOW JURISTS DURING THEIR FACT-FINDING MISSION HERE LAST DECEMBER. STORIES REPEAT FAMILIAR GOU CRITICISMS OF GOLDMAN PERSONALLY; BASED ON HIS PREPARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON URUGUAY AS IAHRC CONSULTANT, AND SUPPOSED "MARXIST" LEANINGS OF PAX ROMANA MOVEMENT, WITH WHICH HE AND COLLEAGUES ARE ALLEGEDLY ASSOCIATED.

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2. COMMENT: GIVEN THEIR POLEMIC TONE, PROMINENT PLACEMENT IN THE GOU'S TRADITIONAL PRESS OUTLETS, AND THE LACK OF COVERAGE BY OPPOSITION "EL DIA" THE STORIES ARE UNMISTAKABLY INSPIRED FROM WITHIN THE GOU. THE HARPING ON GOLDMAN'S SUPPOSEDLY "IMPROPER" ROLE AS OAS CONSULTANT LEADS US TO SUSPECT FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR ALVARO

ALVAREZ AS THEIR SOURCE BECAUSE HE IS THE PRIMARY PURVEYOR  
OF THIS LINE WITHIN THE GOU. THIS ABILITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
HARDLINERS WITHIN THE GOU READILY TO USE THE MEDIA TO SERVE  
THEIR ENDS WILL BEAR CLOSE WATCHING DURING THE FORTHCOMING  
NAS AND ABA VISITS.

3. AN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT: THIS FRONT PAGE PRESS PLAY  
WHICH CREDITS THE URUGUAYAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND  
AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS PERSONALLY WITH VIGOROUSLY DEFENDING  
THE REPUBLIC AGAINST THE DEVIL GOLDMAN'S LATEST ATTACK, MAY  
HELP TO STRENGTHEN THEIR CREDIBILITY ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES  
WITHIN THE GOU.  
CHEEK

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## Message Attributes

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